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NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices
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Board of Governors may consider moving UNC system offices out of Chapel Hill

By [Joe Killian](#)

In the last few months the UNC Board of Governors has proposed [a lot of controversial moves](#) for the university system.

One of the latest might be the most perplexing – even to members of the board itself.

The proposal: move the entire UNC General Administration out of its traditional home on the Chapel Hill campus.

The reason: Well...it's complicated.

The UNC General Administration consists of about 265 UNC system staff members with an annual budget of \$65.4 million. They report to UNC System president Margaret Spellings and are responsible for a wide range of duties, including long-range planning, research, legal and student affairs, financial management, government relations and administrative oversight of things like the UNC Press and UNC-TV.

Last month, after a series of [public dust-ups with Spellings](#), the board of governors convened a committee to examine the purpose of the general administration, with an eye toward some changes. Chaired by former Republican legislator Bob Rucho, the committee kicked off a series of discussions that came to fruition at the full board meeting earlier this month. The proposed changes are likely to reemerge at the board's December 15 meeting.

Among them: a [controversial proposal](#) for the board to hire its own staff and the idea of moving the General Administration.

Spellings opposed the board hiring its own staff, seeing it as an intrusion into her operation of the system and its employees. Enough board members – including board Chairman Louis Bissette – sided with her to kill the idea in committee. But several board members – most part of a more aggressively conservative wing of the board – say they intend to bring it up again.

During a discussion of moving the system's core administrative staff at an October task force meeting,

Spellings unloaded a series of her own questions.

“Why now?” Spellings asked of the move. “What are the advantages to the university, to our strategic plan goals, to the need to educate more students better and more affordably, more rapidly and to high quality levels? How will this make the university’s work different? Will it be enhanced or strengthened? If so, in what ways?” [[Read more](#)....]

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